Bars express solidarity with dissenting judges

LAHORE: A joint general house meeting of the Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) and the Lahore Bar Association (LBA) on Friday rejected the 27th Amendment and expressed solidarity with Supreme Court judges Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Athar Minallah who tendered their resignations.

The leaders of both associations, ruled by the Hamid Khan-led professional group, in the meeting said the senior judges listened to the voice of their conscience and resigned from the lofty offices in protest against the 'unconstitutional' actions. They alleged that the government 'imposed' the amendment only to protect its interests and added that it usurped the independence of the judiciary to make it subservient to the executive.

The speakers said the legal fraternity would chalk out a plan against the amendment.

LHCBA President Malik Asif Nissoana, LBA President Mubashar Rehman, LHCBA former vice president Rabbiya Bajwa and others addressed the meeting.

The members of both bar associations also observed a partial strike to mark a 'black day' against the new constitutional amendment. — **Staff Reporter**

20 TLP workers remanded in police custody

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Friday granted physical remand of 20 workers of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) to police while sending 17 others to jail for identification parade in cases of violence.

The investigating officers (IOs) of Shahdara and Nawankot police stations produced the suspects before the court.

The IOs told the court that physical custody of 20 suspects was required to complete the investigation.

ATC-I Judge Manzer Ali Gill allowed the request and approved physical remand of 20 suspects for seven days and sent the remaining to jail for identification parade.

The suspects have been charged with allegations of murder, attempted murder and terrorism during violent protests.
— Staff Reporter

Era of suo motu notices over: Azma

LAHORE: Punjab Information and Culture Minister Azma Bokhari has said the era of taking suo motu notices was over and that those attempting to get the assembly dissolved unconstitutionally are unwilling to accept the parliament's supremacy.

"The era of taking suo motu notices has come to an end," Ms Bokhari said in a statement here on Friday, referring to the 27th Amendment.

She said all state institutions were bound by the Constitution, with the Parliament holding ultimate authority, which defined "true civilian supremacy".

The minister praised the Pakistan armed forces for bringing honuor to the country worldwide. — **Staff Reporter**

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CORRIGENDUM
With reference to the GEPCO tenders published in "Daily DAWN, "Daily JANG" and " Daily SAMAJ" dated **30.10.2025** to be opened on **18.11.2025**, the opening date may please be read as **03.12.2025** instead of **18.11.2025** for tender Sr. No.11 to **13/2025-26**. The rest of the contents and terms & conditions will remain unchanged.
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Police clueless about two minor sisters 'abducted on way to school'

Abductors of a woman, found unconscious two weeks back, also at large

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The police failed to recover two minor sisters studying in Class VI and a young woman, who were allegedly abducted in two separate incidents occurring in different areas.

As per the parents of the two minor sisters, the girls were going to school on Thursday when they were allegedly abducted in Manga Mandi area.

The incident has caused serious concern among all the parents regarding the security of their school-going daughters as the police failed to trace the two sisters despite passage of 24 hours.

The girls' parents lashed out at the police authorities, saying the abductions mocked the Lahore police's tall claims about providing a secure environment to the women and girls in the city.

In a statements, the parents also referred to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's claim that the streets and roads of the province, particularly of Lahore, have been made safe for the women to walk freely, declaring violence against them as her 'red line'.

They told the media that their daughters 'N' and 'A' were allegedly abducted by unknown men when they were on their way to their school in Rasheed Town, Manga Mandi.

They said that a private security camera had detected the girls walking down a street in school uniform. However, they suddenly went missing under mysterious circumstances, they said.

They alleged that the police failed to trace the girls because some of the cameras of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) in the area were not functioning.

They urged the Punjab chief minister to direct the police to use all available resources to trace their daughters, who have been missing for the last 24 hours.

The devastated parents said the local police officials were not treating the matter on priority despite knowing the sensitivity of the issue involving minor girls.

About another incident that occurred some three weeks back, a police source said that a 22-year-old young woman, K, was allegedly kidnapped from Shadbagh area of Lahore.

He said that she was later recovered in a state of unconsciousness in Eimanabad in district Gujranwala.

The initial inquiries suggested that 'K' was administered injections of strong tranquilisers by her abductors who later threw her along a deserted road in Eminabad.

The girl's mother told the media that she was informed about her daughter lying unconscious by an unknown caller, who later switched off his phone.

She said her daughter was unable to describe what happened to her during her abduction because of trauma.

The Operations DIG says that a case has been registered against unknown kidnapper (s) and police are investigating the incident to dig out the facts.

Railway plans to locally manufacture 295 high-capacity wagons

By Khalid Hasnain

Dawn

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways (PR) plans to locally manufacture as many as 295 high-capacity wagons with Chinese assistance by March and the related manufacturing units have been assigned targets in this regard.

Targets have also been assigned for manufacturing of over 170 high-speed state-of-the-art passenger coaches, including some brake vans by June 2027, according to a senior PR official.

"Manufacturing of modern high-capacity goods wagons and high-speed passenger coaches is part of PR's plan to improve its freight and passenger services by inducting modern rolling stock in the system. Under this, the PR has started implementing this plan with Chinese assistance, placing orders for manufacturing of 820 wagons and 230 coaches about 4 years ago," PR General Manager (Manufacturing & Services) Ghulam Qasim explained while talking to *Dawn*.

"A total of 200 wagons were manufactured in China and during this, PR officers and officials were also given training under the transfer of technology agreement. Similarly, 46 of the total 230 passenger coaches were also built completely in China and shipped to Pakistan," Mr Qasim added.

He said that since the remaining wagons and coaches were to be built in PR's carriage factories and workshops. For this purpose, Chinese engineers had arrived and the manufacturing had finally been started, he added.

In Pakistan, as many as 325 wagons had so far been manufactured and the work on the remaining ones was currently underway. The 200 wagons' CBUs included flat container wagons (70), high sided open top wagons (70), covered wagons (20) and brake vans (20).

The 325 wagons manufactured completely in Pakistan included 200 semi knocked down (SKD) and 95 completely knocked down (CKD) units. "For manufacturing the remaining 295 wagons under a phased manner, the PR's railways factory, Risalpur and Lahore Mughalpura workshops have been assigned the targets starting from November 25 and ending on March 30," Mr Qasim maintained. It is pertinent to mention that the PR has been using hundreds of 1970 model German-made passenger coaches and it continued receiving this model till 1989. Later, it continued to refurbish the same 1970 model coaches until 2002 when it procured 175 coaches and another 200 in 2009.

In 2021, PR signed an agreement of $140 million -- approximately Rs31 billion -- with a Chinese company. Under the contract, the company pledged to manufacture 230 state-of-the-art passenger coaches, of which 46 were provided to railways as CBUs and the remaining 184 were planned to be manufactured in Pakistan under the supervision of Chinese experts.

Under another similar contract for manufacturing 820 wagons, a Chinese firm started manufacturing 200 CBUs and the remaining 620 were planned to be manufactured in Pakistan.

Lahore ranked most-polluted city globally, again

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: Lahore was gain ranked the most-polluted city in the world on Friday, recording an alarming citywide Air Quality Index (AQI) of 475, with a severe smog crisis engulfing most of Punjab, posing serious health risks to millions.

The hazardous air poses serious health risks to residents, who continue to breathe toxic air. The situation is even direr in different areas of Lahore, with AQI on Syed Maratab Ali Road reaching 804, followed by Gulberg's 678 and DHA's 569.

Other major cities of Punjab were also severely affected, with Faisalabad's AQI surging to 626, Sialkot's 601, and Gujranwala's to 515 during the morning hours.

Health experts urged the people to wear masks, curtail outdoor activities and use air-purifiers at home to avoid adverse effects of smog, warning that children and the elderly are particularly at high risk.

The environmental experts attribute the persistent smog to crop residues burning, industrial emissions and heavy traffic congestion.

Meanwhile, the provincial authorities held a high-level meeting to review the 'Smog Mitigation Action Plans 2025–26' and re-launch an upgraded Smog Mitigation Projects Tracking Dashboard (SMPT 2.0). Planning & Development (P&D) Board Secretary Rafaqat Ali chaired the meeting aimed to enhance real-time monitoring and inter-departmental coordination.

Key updates from various departments included initiatives taken by transport sector, such as the launch of the Punjab Digital Transport Governance System and the distribution of thousands of e-bikes to control vehicle pollution.

The agriculture department claimed there is a 25 percent reduction in stubble burning this year, with over 4,700 "super seeders" delivered to farmers.

The environment department says that AQI display screens in Lahore are proving helpful in creating public awareness, while health department has established smog centres in hospitals, besides running district-level campaigns on the issue.

The secretary stressed the need for effective public awareness campaigns through media platforms and directed the departments to promptly upload their anti-smog activities on the new dashboard for transparent smog monitoring.

Punjab speaker calls for political stability

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan has called for political stability to take the country forward.

Speaking at a ceremony here on Friday, he said that just as there's a need for ending the difference between students of public and private sector educational institutions, there's also a need for ensuring political stability in the country to take it forward on the road to progress.

Referring to the 27th Amendment that authorised the parliament to appoint judges withdrawing the powers from the judiciary, he said the unrest that had been created in the country (on this count) also needed to end.

"The constitution was interpreted in such a way that the judge will appoint the judge. The amendments (to the Constitution to change the judge's appointment process) that the parliament tried to make were blocked by the judiciary," he said, referring to the 19th Amendment that changed the judges' appointment process proposed in the 18th Amendment.

The speaker regretted that elected governments were thrown out (with the help of judiciary), and called for making the parliament effective.

"The parliament will have to be empowered. The power of appointment (of judges) should rest with the parliament. This is not an interpretation (of the Constitution) that a judge will appoint another judge."

Mr Khan lauded the parliament for creating the constitutional court and giving a common man like him the opportunity to go to the Supreme Court.